

native speech. This will doubtlessly ensure it a widely extended circulation; the practice of each individual writer describing his supposed new species in his own particular language, of course limiting the perusal of his work to those conversant with that tongue, and entailing great confusion (where the work is not illustrated) through foreigners reproducing the species under other appellations through a justifiable ignorance (since a knowledge of all the tongues of Europe cannot be expected from any man, and their acquisition would leave but little leisure to be devoted to the study of nature) of their prior publication.

It is perhaps to be regretted that no plates accompany the letter-press, the references being frequently to unpublished (at least they have not as yet reached us in England) figures in Kuster's costly and bulky edition of Chemnitz's 'Conchylien Cabinet,' a book, whose protracted periodical issue and the rudeness of execution in its earlier plates, combined with the comparative want of research displayed by the editor in the earlier portion of it, have almost excluded it from our libraries in England, and rendered us ignorant how much valuable matter is engulfed in the more recent numbers, wherein indeed a very considerable number of hitherto unpublished species have of late appeared. An atlas of engravings after the fashion of Rossmäslers's 'Iconography of the European Land and Freshwater Shells,' and produced at a similar moderate charge, would prove a most valuable companion to Dr. Pfeiffer's text, and would not (we believe) be unappreciated by the public.

In conclusion we may state, that there is throughout exhibited a sound and practical acquaintance with conchological literature, particularly with that of England; and with a singular frankness, such species as the author has himself been unable to recognize are indicated by a symbolic mark. This latter proceeding may appear unimportant, yet how many difficulties could be solved, were we thus enabled to ascertain the exact extent of an author's acquaintance with the established species previous to his constitution of new ones!

*Fauna littoralis Norvegiæ, oder Beschreibung und Abbildungen neuer oder wenig bekannten Seethiere, nebst Beobachtungen über die Organisation, Lebensweise u. Entwicklung derselben* von M. Sars, Doctor der Philosophie, &c. Erstes Heft, mit 10 Kupfertafeln. Christiania, 1846.

The first number of a very interesting work which we are anxious to recommend to the support of British zoologists. It is written in the German language with the characters of the new genera and species in Latin: it is in folio, and this number contains 94 pages and 10 plates, well-engraved and uncoloured. The species illustrated are—

1. *Syncoryna Sarsii*, Löv.
2. *PODOCORYNA*, a new genus, = *Hydractinia* of Van Beneden; and the *P. carnea*, Sars, is very probably the same as the *Hydractinia rosea*, Van Beneden.

3. *PERIGONIMUS* (nov. gen.). "Polypi pallio membranaceo, tubuloso, gemmis matri similibus imperfectis ramoso, capitulo molliori non retractili, affixi; tentaculis sub ore verticillatis, biserialibus. Gemmæ matri dissimiles et ovis carentes non in capitulis, sed in caule ramulisque sparsæ, campanulatæ, cirris marginalibus quatuor." *P. muscoides* is the only species: it seems related to the *Campanularia dumosa* of British authors.

4. *Cytais octopunctata*; a new species without a Latin diagnosis, but well-figured.

5. *Pennatula borealis*, "16 ad 31 pollicaris, valde elongata, rubra; pinnulis breviusculis, semilunaribus, apicem versus longioribus et imbricatis, basin versus minoribus et magis distantibus, cellulis polyporum in seriebus 2—3 irregularibus dispositis; rhachide angusto; stipite (sterili) tertiam ad quintam totius partem æquante, fusiformi, parte bulbosa antice margine elevato et supra papillis sanguineis. Polypi albidii, tentaculis 8 pinnatis apice acuminatis, pinnulis longioribus setaceis." A very fine species.

6. *Lucernaria quadricornis*, Müll. = *L. fascicularis*, Flem.

7. *Lucernaria auricula*, Rathke.

8. *Lucernaria cyathiformis*, nov. sp.

9. *ARACHNACTIS* (nov. gen.). "Animal liberum, molle, natans; corpus breviter cylindricum, parvum, basi rotundata, disco sutorio carente; os seriebus tentaculorum non retractilium duabus circumdatum, exterioribus longissimis, interioribus brevibus." One species is known, which M. Sars calls *A. albida*. It may be compared to a detached head of a *Tubularia* floating at freedom in the sea.

10. *AGALMOPSIS* (nov. gen.). "Partes cartilagineæ superiores seu natatoriæ ut in *Agalmate*; inferiores numerosæ, solidæ, triangulares, sparsæ, non tubum componentes, sed modo una earum extremitate canali reproductorio affixæ cæterumque liberæ, pro emissione tubulorum sutoriorum ac tentaculorum ubicunque fissuras præbentes. Canalis reproductorius longissimus, tubulos sutorios, vesiculas variæ formæ et tentacula offerens. Tentacula ramulis clavatis (clava variæ formæ) obsita." The only species is named *A. elegans*, and well it is entitled to its designation. It is described and figured in the best manner of the author.

11. *Diphyes truncata* (nov. sp.), "partibus utrisque cartilagineis corporis pentagonis: anteriori pyramidali, postice truncata absque appendicibus; posteriori utraque extremitate truncata, postice infra appendice horizontali foliacea margine inciso; cavitatibus natatoriis æqualibus. Squamis in canali reproductorio cartilagineis fornicatis margine integro."

12. *Diphyes biloba* (nov. sp.), "partibus utrisque cartilagineis corporis fere ut in præcedenti specie, sed anteriori postice supra cavitatem natatoriam appendice horizontali foliacea biloba, lobis rotundatis; posteriori quam priori multo minori; squamis in canali reproductorio cartilagineis fornicatis margine quadridentato."

13. *Echinaster sanguinolentus* = *Asterias sanguinolenta*, Müll. = *Echinaster Sarsii*, Müll. and Trosch. The development of the species is minutely traced and elaborately described and figured.

14. *Asteracanthion Mülleri*, Sars.

15. *Salpa runcinata*, Chamisso. A very elaborate history of the species.

16. *Salpa spinosa*, Otto. Described with fullness equal to the preceding.

17. *Filograna implexa*, Berk.

18. OLIGOBANCHUS (nov. gen.). "Corpus teres arenicoliforme cauda attenuata, segmentorum quodque ex annulis quatuor compositum. Caput distinctum, antice truncatum, tentaculis duobus brevibus; os subtus proboscide brevissima inerme; anus terminalis cirris quatuor. Pinnæ in segmento quoque utrinque duæ discretæ ex mammillis cum fasciculis setarum capillarium constantes, in segmentis anticis 14—15 absque appendicibus, in reliquis vero et cirro superiori et inferiori conico seu fusiformi ornatae. Branchiarum arbusculæformium ramosissimarum paria quatuor in segmentis anticis corporis supra et pone pinnas in dorso." This genus, as Sars afterwards learned, is the same as the *Scalibregma* of H. Rathke instituted in 1843; but it is doubtful whether Sars' species—*Oligobanchus roseus*—is the same as the *Scalibregma inflatum* of Rathke; the probability is that they are distinct. There is reason to believe that the genus *Travisia* of Dr. Johnston (1840) will have to merge also in *Scalibregma*; the *Travisia* apparently having been imperfectly and erroneously characterized from the bad condition of the specimen in the Doctor's possession: see Ann. Nat. Hist. iv. p. 375. An examination of a living individual of *Travisia* is required to clear up all doubts.

#### *In the Press.*

We are glad to learn that a new work on the British Shells and Mollusca, the joint production of Prof. E. Forbes and Mr. Sylvanus Hanley, which is intended to appear in Van Voorst's series of British Zoology, is considerably advanced. All the known species are proposed to be delineated, and seventeen of the copper plates are already engraved by Mr. Sowerby, jun.

Professor Daubeny of Oxford has in the press, and nearly ready for publication, a new and much enlarged edition of his Description of Active and Extinct Volcanos.

The present Edition will be found to contain nearly twice the amount of matter included in the preceding one, embracing not only such new facts and observations with respect to volcanos as have been brought to light since its first appearance in 1826, but likewise the allied phænomena of Earthquakes and Thermal Springs, as well as a fuller discussion of the theories connected with those subjects.

A work is in preparation by Mr. H. E. Strickland and Dr. A. G. Melville on the Natural History and Osteology of the Dodo, the Solitaire, and other extinct birds of Mauritius, Bourbon and Rodriguez. It will be published in 4to by Mr. Lovell Reeve, and will be illustrated by numerous lithographic plates, woodcuts and other engravings.